

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00
DHA-02 NSC-05 ARAE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 PA-02
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/049 W

-----271735Z 086568 /43

O 271100Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL RECIFE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5758
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS RECIFE 0076

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, BR: (CAPUANO, THOMAS AND ROSEBAUGH, LAWRENCE)
SUBJ: MAY 26 RECIFE PRESS COVERAGE OF CAPUANO-ROSEBAUGH CASE.

REF: RECIFE 0072, BRASILIA 4236 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE ARREST OF THE TWO CLERGYMEN WAS FEATURED ITEM ON PAGES ONE AND TWO OF THE DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO WHILE A SHORT NEWS ITEM APPEARED ON THE INSIDE OF THE JORNAL DO COMMERCIO. THE ARTICLES CONTAINED STATEMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR, THE SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC SECURITY, AND THE MDB LEADERS IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE OPPOSITION DEPUTIES CRITICIZE POLICE BRUTALITY IN THE STATE AND CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE.

2. THE DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO ARTICLE:

A. REPORTED PERNAMBUCO ARENA PARTY LEADERS AS STATING SOME PEOPLE ARE SEEKING TO EXPLOIT THE CASE POLITICALLY BECAUSE OF THE VISIT OF MRS. CARTER, WHEREAS THE CASE IS BEING RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNMENT BY MEANS OF A POLICE INQUIRY.

B. REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SPOKESMAN JOHN DE WITT THE EMBASSY HAS SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE STATEMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BOTH CLERGYMEN AND THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY. THE EMBASSY IS SAID TO HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON MRS. CARTER'S VISIT.

C. REPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON MAY 25 IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE CASE WOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND THAT "THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES THAT THE CASE MAY HAVE

DO NOT WORRY ME BECAUSE I AM MORE CONCERNED WITH THE GOVERNMENTS'S POSITION OF CLARIFYING WHAT HAPPENED". REGARDING CONDITIONS AT THE PRISON WHERE THE CLERGYMEN WERE HELD, HE SAID THAT THEY ARE A SERIOUS PROBLEM "BUT THAT THEY CANNOT BE CHANGED OVERNIGHT. CERTAINLY CONDITIONS THERE ARE NOT IDEAL, BUT IT ALSO MUST BE BORN IN MIND THAT PEOPLE HELD THERE ARE FROM THE LOWEST LEVELS OF SOCIETY. THE IDEAL WOULD BE TO HAVE NEITHER THIEVES NOR PRISONS, BUT THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. HAROLDO COLLARES DA CUNHA BARRETO HAS BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE INQUIRY".

D. REPORTED THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY'S WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AS FOLLOWS: "WITH REFERENCE TO THE RECENT EVENTS INVOLVING CIVILIAN POLICE AGENTS OF THE STATE WALDOMIRO DE OLIVEIRA AND ALUISIO SEVERO GOMES AND AMERICAN CITIZENS LOURENCE ROSEBAUGH AND THOMAS CAPUANO I OFFER THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS:

- 1.) TTEZ WERE FOUND IN THE COQUE AREA A NOTORIOUS AREA FREQUENTED BY MARGINALS.
- 2.) WHEN THEY WERE IDENTIFIED AS AMERICANS THEY WERE SET FREE.
- 35.) AS SOON AS HE WAS INFORMED OF THE CASE THE GOVERNOR ORDERED THE ARREST ON THE TWO AGENTS AND OPENED AN ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRY THAT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

E. PERNAMBUCO MDB FEDERAL DEPUTY JARBAS VASCONCELOS IS REPORTED FROM BRASILIA AS HAVING CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO OPEN AN INQUIRY TO REMOVE ALL POLICE INVOLVED IN THE CASE.

F. PERNAMBUCO MDB STATE DEPUTY MARCUS CUNHA CALLED FOR THE CREATION
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OF A PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE POLICE VIOLENCE. HE ACCUSED JOAO ACCIOLY THE DELEGADO OF ROUBOS E FURTOS OF BEING A PSYCHOPATH, A TORTURER, AND MENTALLY UNBALANCED. HIS ACCUSATIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY MDB DEPUTIES ROBERTO FREIRE, MANOEL GILBERTO AND EDGAR MOURY FERNANDES. CUNHA SAID THAT THE REIGN OF POLICE TERROR WAS INTRODUCED IN PERNAMBUCO TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE CURRENT GOVERNOR TOOK OFFICE. HE CRITICIZED THE PROMOTION AND DECORATION OF STATE MILITARY POLICE CAPTAIN JOSE FERREIRA DOS ANJOS, ACCUSED BY ARENA DEPUTY ANTONIO BENJAMIN OF BRUTALITY IN THE SERTAO CITIES OF BETANIA AND SERRA TALHADA.
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Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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